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COUNTRY: Latin America

CIA [redacted]

SUBJECT: Businessmen's Attitudes Towards the Eisenhower Administration

DATE 18 Jan 54

PLACE ACQUIRED: Colombia/Peru/Mexico

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SOURCE: [redacted]

During October and November 1953, I spent several weeks visiting my firm's distributors in Mexico, Central America, and northern South America. I was much interested in their attitudes toward the present US Administration. These attitudes of the businessmen were so similar that it is possible for me to make a brief generalization. They feel that the Eisenhower Administration is going to nail the Latin American countries down the river on the Reciprocal Trade law. Latin Americans anticipate a high tariff policy which will have an adverse effect on Latin American trade with the US and result in a further set back to the Latin American economy in general. In Mexico and Peru the zinc and lead exports are expected to decline further due to the US restrictive measures. The businessmen I talked with in these countries also hold an adverse opinion of the Eisenhower Administration because of the attempt to limit the activities of the Export Import Bank which they had held in high esteem as a benefit to the Latin American economy. I found business conditions particularly poor in prospect. In Peru the sol is continuing to slip and the business community with which I was in touch was pessimistic.

-end-

Subject
Attitudes
65-49.2

Area
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Peru 048
[redacted]

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